

Cadenza

Mansfield University Department of Music

Spring 99

Spring Choral Events

Mansfield University will host the Annual School Choral Festival on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 23-24, 1999. Area schools are invited to bring their choirs for a 45-minute performance and workshop session.

This year's festival will focus on Latin American music. Each choir will sing at least one Latin American selection as a part of their performance.

Dr. Douglas Crowder, Assistant Professor of Voice and Piano at Mansfield, will be the guest clinician. Dr. Crowder joined our voice faculty this fall after an extensive career teaching and performing. He received degrees from Westminster Choir College, the School of Church Music of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. He spent two years in Argentina teaching at the Instituto de Capacitacion in Mendoza, where he developed a specialty in Latin American music. Since then, he has toured throughout the region giving presentations with "Young Audiences of Maryland." We are grateful for the expertise he brings to campus not only with Hispanic folk and art song, but also through his understanding of vocal pedagogy. Dr. Crowder will give a presentation on Latin American music

at the end of festival on Wednesday, March 24 at 4 p.m. in Steadman Theatre.

On Friday, March 26, at 8 p.m., the Chamber Singers will present a Latin American program of music with Pablo Cohen, Assistant Professor of Guitar. They will present works by Carlos Guastavino, among other selections. Dr. Cohen and Dr. Crowder will also perform individually on this concert.

The Festival Chorus will present Haydn's "Creation" on Saturday, April 24, 1999, at 8 p.m. in Steadman Theatre. The performance will feature the voice faculty of the Music Department: Dr. Jean-Anne Teal, soprano; Dr. Youngsuk Kim, tenor; and Dr. Douglas Crowder, baritone. A large orchestra of student and professional players will accompany the soloists and chorus. Membership in the MU Festival Chorus includes over 100 singers: faculty, students, and staff from the university as well as singers from the surrounding communities.

I was privileged to study the work at the Oregon Bach Festival under the renowned conductor Helmut Rilling of Germany. During the 17-day festival, I conducted excerpts of "The Creation" in two concert performances. Interest in

bringing the work to the Mansfield community was sparked by this experience as well as the fact that 1999 is the 200th anniversary of the first public performance of "Creation."

Plans are underway for a second European Tour by the Concert Choir in May, 1999. Forty-nine Concert Choir members and eight guests will travel to Italy, Austria, and Germany from May 10 to May 24. We will perform in Rome, Florence, Venice, Innsbruck, Salzburg, and Munich. The program will include American and European motets, songs from around the world, a set of sights and sounds from nature, popular and jazz songs, and American gospel and spiritual selections. Please join us for our Home Tour Concert on Sunday, April 11, at 3 p.m. in Steadman Theatre.

Concert Choir alums should have received a mailing about the Concert Choir Reunion coming soon in the fall of 2000! If you didn't receive a letter, please contact me to update your address: Peggy Dettwiler at Butler 105, Mansfield University. Phone number: (717) 662-4721. E-mail: pdettwil@mnsfld.edu.

Peggy Dettwiler,
Director of Choral Activities

Mansfield Musical Ensembles

At Mansfield, students are told about "The Mansfield Tradition." Tradition implies a rigorous and strong program that has grown in stature over its history. In this article, we chronicle the history of Mansfield's music program from its inception to the present. Our investigation considers this growth and pride in our university's musical tradition.

In 1857, Mansfield Classical Seminary was founded. Ella E. Seaver was the sole music faculty member from the Seminary's opening until 1867, when Hamlin Cogswell became director of music. In 1862 the Seminary was renamed the Mansfield Normal School. In the spring of 1872, during the tenure of Normal School principal, David C. Jewett, the chorus, band, and orchestra were established. Mansfield's musical ensembles were an important part of campus life by the end of the century. Mansfield's music program was growing in size and reputation.

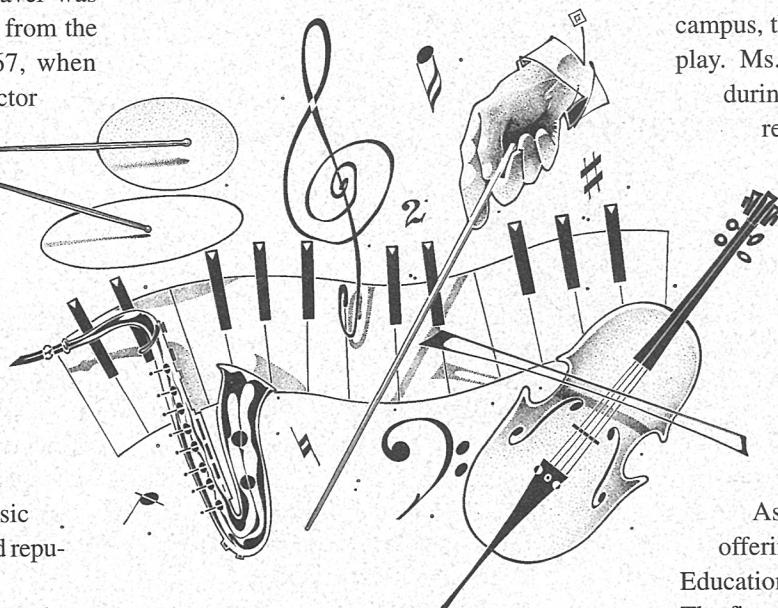
The work of Will George Butler and Grace Eva Steadman led Mansfield in new and exciting directions. Butler was appointed to Mansfield's music faculty as director of instrumental studies in 1914. Steadman was appointed as director of choral activities about the same time. This dynamic team built the reputation of the music program. By 1918, the music department was named "The Normal Conservatory of Music," with Butler as its founding chair. This new name signified the prestigious status the music department had achieved at the beginning of the 20th century.

By 1920, the choral program had established the following ensembles: "The Orpheus Club" (40 male voices), "The Sicilians" (100 female voices), "The Vespers Choir" (10 mixed voices), and The Ladies' and Men's Quartets. These ensembles and their enrollments

show the impact choral music had on campus life.

The orchestral program was established in 1920 with Butler as the Symphony Orchestra director. In addition to directing the orchestra and band, Butler was becoming a noted composer. He wrote several pieces for the school, including our alma mater "Mansfield Hail."

The first "concert" band was



established in 1923 under the direction of Charles Haberman. In 1927, Mansfield Normal School became an accredited "Teachers College" granting a four-year bachelor of science degree in public school music. With the college's new name and program, the music department changed also. Mansfield Teachers College established three university bands to meet the growing curricular needs: Concert Band (25 members), Junior (40 Supervisors), and Concert Grade Band (25 members). These bands were directed by John F. Meyers. In 1932, the first marching band was organized. The 50-member "Drill Band" was also led by John Meyers.

The 1930s were a time of stability in the music department. Mansfield music students became known as

"soupies." The origin of this name is uncertain. Some claim that music students never left the music building and brought canisters of soup with them when they practiced. Others contend that the name soupies referred to student members of the Music Supervisors Association.

In 1940, Bertram Francis briefly directed the bands. During the second world war, the school had an all female band and due to the lack of men on campus, the marching band did not play. Ms. Brooks directed the band during the war. Afterwards, Francis returned as band director until 1974.

The 1960s saw great changes and growth in the music program at Mansfield. These changes included new degree programs. In 1964, Mansfield State College became an accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music, offering a Bachelor of Science in Education and Bachelor of Arts degrees. The first music education degrees were conferred in 1967. The first Bachelor of Music in performance was awarded in 1969.

With these curricular changes, faculty also changed. John Baynes joined the faculty in 1963. In 1966, Donald Stanley joined as director of Marching and Symphonic bands. Edwin Zdzinski joined as director of the string program that same year. Richard Talbot was named assistant director of Symphonic Bands in 1967.

By 1965, the Orchestra was conducted by Professors Owen and Wunderlich. Choral activities were led by voice faculty members Benjamin Husted and Eugene Jones. Opera Workshop became a new part of the Mansfield Tradition under the leadership of professor Jack Wilcox. Chamber music was coached by professors

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Baynes, Francis, Jones, and Helen Henry. With the growth of ensembles and programs, the need for better facilities became apparent. Throughout most of Mansfield's history, music activities were held in Straughn Auditorium, the Arts Building, Belknap Hall, North Hall, the Methodist Church, and the Science Building. The completion of the Will George Butler Music Center in 1967 marked a new era in Mansfield's musical history; the department was finally contained in a single building.

Richard Talbot was named head of the "Marching Mounties" in 1970. His ensemble of 240-members was the largest in the ensemble's history. By the end of the decade, the major ensembles consisted of Concert Wind Ensemble, Concert Choir, College Community Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Band, Festival Chorus, and Marching Band. When the 1970s drew to a close, the student population in Butler Center hit its highest number at 300.

Professor Talbot retired in 1991 leaving a void in the instrumental

section that was not completely filled until the recent hiring of Adam Brennan of Oklahoma University in 1994. Professor Zdzinski was the director of orchestral studies until 1990. After Zdzinski's retirement, Hector Valdivia directed the orchestra until 1994, when the Orchestra was placed under the direction of Kenneth Sarch.

The ebb and flow of faculty and curricular changes also suggest changes in student interest, faculty compliment, and potential for effectively reaching the needs of the artistic public and our future musicians and consumers. Recent additions of faculty, technological advancements, and curricula also are important to the welfare of the department.

Since its inception in 1857, Mansfield University has seen vast changes in its music department. What began as a small one-faculty member program, has grown into a prospering complete music department. Mansfield University's music program continues to grow.

References:

- Richard Talbot, "A History of Mansfield Ensemble," interview by Felicia Barber, October 28, 1998. Mansfield University, Mansfield, PA.
- Largey, Ceale. Life at Mansfield, a Visual Reminiscence. SL.s.n.1. 1984.
- The Carontawan, The Mansfield State College Yearbook. 1937.
- The Carontawan, The Mansfield State College Yearbook. 1932.
- The Carontawan, The Mansfield University Yearbook. 1961.

Note:

If you have information and memories of your time at Mansfield, please send them to Dr. R. Amchin at Butler Center or e-mail him (robamchin@aol.com) for upcoming editions of "Mansfield Memories." An addendum to the attached article on the Mansfield ensembles is planned in the near future. Upcoming issues of the Cadenza will include a summary of alumni memories of their years at Mansfield.

Band News

The wind ensemble, jazz band, and marching band completed their third recording project and are now in the editing stages of producing their third compact disc. The recording project, which has become an annual event, was completed following the fall tour of the wind ensemble and jazz band. If you would like to purchase a copy of this year's recording, contact Adam F. Brennan in the music department. Cost of each CD is \$15. Checks should be made payable to MU Bands. All proceeds go directly to the funding of the annual recording project.

The spring semester will be a busy one for the band area with two concerts early in the semester. The first will be a student conductor's competition concert

Saturday, February 13, 1999. The concert will feature about six student conductors directing the symphonic band, wind ensemble, and combined groups. Concert time is 8 p.m. and admission is free.

The next day, February 14, the wind ensemble will join forces with the orchestra in its fourth annual Pops Concert. This year's theme is, of course, Valentine's Day! Flowers and candy will be given to guests at the concert. Concert time is 3 p.m. A nominal admission will be charged at the door to defer expenses of the flowers and candy.

On March 19-21, the band area will host the 52nd Annual Pennsylvania Intercollegiate Band. The guest

conductor for the event is William K. Wakefield. Dr. Wakefield is the Director of Instrumental Conducting at The University of Oklahoma. He will be coming to MU a day before the event to work with the MU Concert Wind Ensemble. The PA Intercollegiate Band will feature 130 musicians from all over the State of Pennsylvania, with 27 schools scheduled to participate.

The Wind Ensemble will perform its final spring concert on Sunday, April 17 at 3 p.m. The ensemble will perform David Gillingham's "A Crescent Still Abides and Mozart's Serenade in Eb" among other works. We hope you can join us to hear this outstanding ensemble!

Alumnnotes

Mark Varian (BM ME '95) has been teaching Junior High Orchestra in the Brazosport School District in Lake Jackson, TX for three years. He is also active in Music Theatre, the Community Symphony, and the Houston Symphony Chorus. His school address: Lake Jackson Intermediate School, 500 Circle Way, Lake Jackson, TX 77566. E-mail: mvarian@brazosport.isd.tenet.edu.

Laura (Beahm) Welkey (BM '86) lives in Saylorsburg, PA with her husband, Mark and two daughters, Jessica, 4 yrs. and Regan, 11 months. Laura teaches elementary vocal/general music in the Easton Area School District. She is a member of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem. Her e-mail address: ilweldit@ptd.net

Joseph Wargo (BS '77 violin/viola major) has been teaching in Chesterfield County, a suburb of Richmond, VA for 20 years. He is the music department chair and a full-time string teacher at Swift Creek Middle School. Joseph plays the viola with the Richmond Symphony and conducts one of the three Youth Orchestras. He has been a guest director with the VBODA Regional Orchestra (district in PA). This year the faculty voted him "Teacher of the Year." Joseph's students consistently place in first chairs at all regional, county, and youth orchestra events. The middle school orchestra has been awarded a community service award and annually receives "I," or Superior ratings at VBODA Festivals. Joseph still loves teaching and the students. "Many thanks to MU for the excellent music education I received from the school and the great professors such as the Borodkins, the Wunderlichs, Ed Brown, Dr. "Z" (Zdzinski), Dr. Baynes, Pat Aiken, etc. Thanks for all you have done and continue to do." His E-Mail address: jwargo@chesterfield.k12.va.us

Nancy (Sheldon) Durst (BS ME '74) has just completed her year as Grand Choir Director of the PA Order of the Eastern Star. Nancy spent the last

year traveling around PA, conducting choir rehearsals for her over 90 member, mixed adult voiced choir. The year culminated at their convention in Lancaster, PA where the choir performed for over six thousand delegates over a period of five days. Nancy also made history in the Grand Chapter by organizing its first handball choir consisting of members from all across the state. In April, she hosted the MU Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble at St. John's Lutheran Church in Erie for an evening of outstanding music. The last time the Concert Choir performed in Erie was in 1974, when Nancy was a member of that group. Her address: 5961 Cobblestone Dr., Erie, PA 16509.

Teresa Forringer (BM ME '97) is teaching Elementary General Music, grades K-6 for the Keystone Central School District in Lock Haven. During the summer she is working on her Master's in Music Ed at PSU. Her E-Mail: tforring@oak.kcsd.k12.pa.us

Sharon (Wilson) Phetteplace (BM ME '97) is in her second year teaching 4-5th grade general music, chorus, band, and woodwind/percussion lessons at Townsend Elementary School in Walton, NY. She is working toward a Master's Degree in K-12 reading from SUNY Cortland.

David Phetteplace (BM ME '95) is in his third year teaching 6-12th grade music at the O'Neill Jr./Sr. High School in Walton, NY. He is responsible for the 6-7th grade Jr. high band, 7-8th grade jazz band and general music, 6-12th grade woodwind lessons, high school theory I and II, and high school jazz band. David is working toward his Master's Degree in K-12 reading from SUNY Oneonta. David & Sharon reside in Walton and have purchased a modular home there.

Maureen Rae (Tiffany) Downs (BS ME '72) address is: RR4 Box 4161, Wyalusing, PA 18853. Her e-mail: kdowns@epix.net

Robert L. English (BS ME '54) has taken additional music studies at the Guild Hall School of Music, London, England, Penn State University, Freedonia College, Peabody Conservatory of Music and the Ithaca College. Bob taught music in Marienville and Youngville, PA before moving in 1971 to Oil City, PA. He was music supervisor for the Oil City School District until his retirement in 1989. Bob hosted many PMEA festivals. In 1977 the Oil City H.S. Band was under the direction of Bob and was selected as the Official Inaugural Band representing PA in the Inaugural of Jimmy Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale. Robert was instrumental in bringing the United States Service Bands to Oil City as well as the dance bands of the Big Band Era which included Harry James and Maynard Ferguson. Bob was an organist for 32 years with the Third Pennsylvania District, Knights of Columbus Degree Team and from 1979 to 1944, Bob played keyboard for the Oil Heritage Jazz Concerts, produced and directed by Rex Mitchell. He also has his own B & E COMBO. In 1997, Bob performed on trumpet while recording with the Assumption B.V.M. Church Choir of Oil City. The tapes were presented to Pope John II at the Vatican in Rome. In September 1977, the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees, Venango County Chapter, honored Bob as the Outstanding Volunteer of the year. He is one of the founders and current director of "Mostly Brass." The band annually presents "Concerts In The Park," in area communities and mini programs at the various convalescent homes, civic and church events. With the addition of its circus inspired band wagon, the band has become a favorite feature in area parades. In April of 1998, "Mostly Brass" played the prelude at the formal opening of the 77th state convention of the PA Federation of Music Clubs, Inc.

continued on next page

The convention was held in Franklin, PA. Bob and his wife, Marion, have three children and seven grandchildren. "STILL GOING STRONG."

Laura (Waterhouse) Bissell (BM ME '95) was a long-term music substitute teacher at the Troy Middle School in the spring of '96. On 6/22/96 Laura married Paul M. Bissell, also a Mansfield graduate (Dec. '94) in Dushore, PA. She was a substitute teacher for the 1996-97 school year and was also hired as a Choir Director at St. Peter Lutheran Church. On 9/26/97 they became the proud parents of Adam Michael Bissell. Laura took a year off to be with her son and is now back substitute teaching. They live at: 126 E. Winding Hill Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Lisa A. (LaMachia) Roeseler (BM ME '85) is in her 13th year as Choral Director at Medina H.S., NY. She is director of 4 choruses at Medina and teaches two music theory classes and an Advanced Placement (AP) Music Theory Class. Lisa has been married to her husband, Marty, for six years and they have three sons (Matthew, age 4; Zachary, age 3; and Jacob, age 1)...Quite a handful! She is also an organist and Choir Director at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Medina. Lisa loves spending time with her husband and boys! They live at 9320 Ridge Rd., Middleport, NY 14105.

Alice (Wilcox) Waltman (BS '40) retired in 1971 after teaching music in Madison, NJ for 30 years. She still lives in Berkeley Heights, NJ, and keeps busy carrying wood for her two fireplaces. She lives at 585 Plainfield Ave. Berkeley Height, NJ 07922.

Audra Jan Beaver (BM ME '93) is living in Columbus, OH, with her "soon to be" husband, James, and their son, Aaron, who was born 8/31/96. Audra is working as a private piano instructor at the Conservatory of Piano in Columbus. She would love to hear from all of her friends, classmates, and SAI sisters. Audra lives at 4116-C Dundee Ave., Columbus, OH 43227.

Brent Merle Young (BS '79) is employed at the Practical Bible College

in Binghamton, NY, where he teaches piano, Music Appreciation, Fundamentals of Music, Music in Ministry, and Functional Guitar to non-music majors. He and his wife, Rose Ann have three children - ages 11, 9, and 4. Brent is also working on a Ph.D. in Music Ed at Penn State University. Their address: 3 Beth Place, Appalachia, NY 13732

Dennis Ritz (BS '69, MM ED '74) and **Barbara (Cuffey) Ritz** ('75) Barbara came out of retirement to home school son, David, for the 8th grade. Both did a wonderful job. David is performing well as a freshman at Shippensburg H.S. The family spent its 19th summer at the New England Music Camp. Dennis conducted the Concert Orchestra again, Barbara volunteered in many areas and David was a camper playing trombone. Barbara continues to sing in the church choir and minister to shut-ins and convalescents. Dennis completed the Instrument Flight Rating in August, (what a thrill to perform an instrument landing descending out of zero visibility in the clouds and seeing the runway straight ahead.) He plans to begin the Commercial rating in the spring. The entire Ritz family will tour England in June; David will go with his Latin class to Italy in October. The Ritz's live at: 418 Herswen Dr., Shippensburg, PA 17257

John & Nikki (Griffin) Cole (BM ME's '93) have been watching their new house being built and are bursting to move in the house which is expected to be completed by Christmas! John received his Master of Music in Music Education from Ithaca College in August 1998, and Nikki expects to be finished with her Master's in August 1999. Nikki teaches Instrumental Music at Thomas K. Beecher Elementary School in Elmira, and John teaches high school Instrumental Music at Haverling High in Bath, NY. In March 1998, John participated in the West Point Percussion Festival Marimba Orchestra, conducted by Frederick Fennell. This 1998 Marimba Orchestra was documented by the Guinness Book of World Records as being the largest indoor marimba ensemble ever assembled, with 164 players on 134 marimbas. John literally played alongside some of

the world's top marimbists, such as Emile Richards, Gordon Stout, Gordon Peters, as well as Bob Becker and Leigh Howard Stevens! The Percussive Arts Society Journal, "Percussive Notes," featured the West Point Festival in August 1998 and placed a picture of the Marimba Orchestra on the cover - if you come across a copy, John is in the second row, to the viewer's right, directly behind Bill Ludwig and Emile Richards! What an unforgettable experience! We'd love to hear from our fellow soupies! Call or write at (607) 962-5292, Summit Drive Extension, South Corning, NY 14830

Robert Garofalo, Ph.D. ('60) is a professor of music and director of graduate programs in instrumental conducting at the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music of The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. A native of Pennsylvania, he was educated at Mansfield University, the Eastman School of Music, and Catholic University. He studied trombone with Emory Remington, composition with G. Thaddeus Jones, musicology with Ruth Steiner, and conducting with Lloyd Geisler (National Symphony) and Richard Lert (American Symphony Orchestra League's East Cost Conducting Institute). During his tenure at CUA, Dr. Garofalo has at various times conducted the opera orchestra, symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, chamber winds, brass ensemble, and jazz ensemble. From 1989 to 1993, he was music director of "Eternal Winds of Washington," a versatile professional ensemble; and from 1978 to 1988 he was conductor of "Heritage Americana," a recreated Civil War era brass band which performed on period instruments. Heritage Americana is featured in the video series "The History of Bands in America" and heard on the sound track of Ken Burns' TV documentary "The Civil War." Garafalo is the author of eight books and numerous music publications. His articles, both scholarly and practical, have appeared in national and international music journals and dictionaries. He maintains a busy schedule as a guest conductor, clinician, lecturer, and adjudicator throughout the United States, Canada, and abroad.

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Alumni Survey

1. Please indicate the music degree(s) you received or program(s) you completed at Mansfield, listing the level of the most recent degree or program first. Indicate B for bachelor's degree, M for master's degree, and D for doctoral degree. Also, include your focus of studies (e.g., composition, music education/choral, guitar performance), the year the degree/program was completed, and the number of years it took to complete the degree/program.

Degree / Program	Focus of Studies	Year Conferred	Number of Years to Complete the Degree / Program		Primary Instrument
			Years full-time	Years Part-time	
			+		
			+		

2. Please list your opinions regarding the following areas. (If you did not take classes outside the school or department of music, answer only parts 1 and 2 of this questions. N.O. = No Opinion.)

Low Quality	High Quality
----------------	-----------------

Overall quality of the Mansfield University school/department of music	1	2	3	4	5	N.O.
Quality of your specific focus of studies as identified in question 1 above	1	2	3	4	5	N.O.
Quality of Mansfield University overall studies outside of music	1	2	3	4	5	N.O.

3. Please list the positions you have occupied since graduating from, or leaving, Mansfield University, and the years in each position. Most recent first, please note if full or part-time.

Position	Employer, Location	Year(s) (e.g., 1976-79)

4. If you have never been employed in a full-time music-related position, please list the part-time music positions you have occupied since graduating from Mansfield and the years in each position. (If you answered question 3, skip this question).

Position	Employer, Location	Year(s) (e.g., 1976-79)

5. Please list your opinions regarding the quality of instruction at Mansfield in the following areas: (If you did not have any classes in a specified field, circle N.O. for No Opinion.)

Low Quality	High Quality
----------------	-----------------

Basic Music Theory	1	2	3	4	5	N.O.
Music History	1	2	3	4	5	N.O.
Studio Lessons	1	2	3	4	5	N.O.
Teaching Methods/Pedagogy	1	2	3	4	5	N.O.
Ensembles	1	2	3	4	5	N.O.
General Ed/Liberal Arts	1	2	3	4	5	N.O.

6. Please describe any courses you think should be added for music majors/students at Mansfield.

7. Please list any courses you were required to take that you think should not be required.

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8. Given your major or professional emphasis, do you feel you had adequate opportunities to work in the following situations? (Circle appropriate response for each item.)

Performance with large ensemble (conducted)	Yes	No	N.O.
Performance with small ensemble (non-conducted)	Yes	No	N.O.
Solo performance	Yes	No	N.O.
Teaching opportunities	Yes	No	N.O.
Research/Writing projects	Yes	No	N.O.

9. What was the general influence of these working opportunities (question 12) on your personal career development?

	No Influence		Great Influence		
Overall quality of the music department	1	2	3	4	5
Performance with small ensemble (non-conducted)	1	2	3	4	5
Solo performance	1	2	3	4	5
Teaching opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Research/Writing projects	1	2	3	4	5

10. Would you recommend Mansfield to someone considering studying music: Yes No

Please explain your answer: _____

11. What advice would you give to present music students regarding preparation for a career in music? Emphasize your current career in music.

12. How important were the following elements in your decision to attend Mansfield?

	Not Important		Very Important		
Location	1	2	3	4	5
Cost of tuition	1	2	3	4	5
Recommendations of a teacher	1	2	3	4	5
Assistantship/Scholarship	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of education	1	2	3	4	5
Reputation of the music department	1	2	3	4	5
Presence of particular faculty member(s)	1	2	3	4	5
Facilities	1	2	3	4	5

13. Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding the MU music department?

OPTIONAL

14. Name _____ Phone (_____) _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Please mail to: Dr. Joseph Murphy, Butler Music Center, Mansfield University, Mansfield, PA 16933; or FAX to Dr. Murphy at 717-662-4114.

Faculty Highlights

Retired Professor Kent Hill

I began on August 9 as Interim Music Director of Music Ministries at the Second Congregational Church, a church of some 1200 members, and was then appointed to the permanent position! I play for two Sunday morning services, direct an excellent adult choir of 35 and three bell choirs, oversee Sunday morning services, and oversee directors of two children's choirs and another bell choir. In addition, our plans are to try to redevelop a youth choir under the fine young director of our children's choirs. Other exciting news is that the church signed a contract for a large new organ which will be installed next October. I feel truly blessed to be embarking on such a major position at age 64, but I believe I have a few good years left in me for doing something which I really love. My wife, Janet, has been called as Lay Minister of Music and Faith Formation at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, one of the beautiful old down town churches here in the city. She began her work in August, and was installed officially on October 11. She is enjoying her work enormously, with a wonderfully supportive pastor and staff, and the opportunity for a growing musical program, along with overseeing the program in Christian Education.

Grand Rapids is proving to be a wonderful city - good orchestra, museums, opera, ballet, and choral groups. Not to mention many fine organs! So in spite of the sadness of leaving Rochester and the northeast, we believe it was a good move for us. The Hill's reside at: 478 Marywood Drive NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dr. Robert Amchin

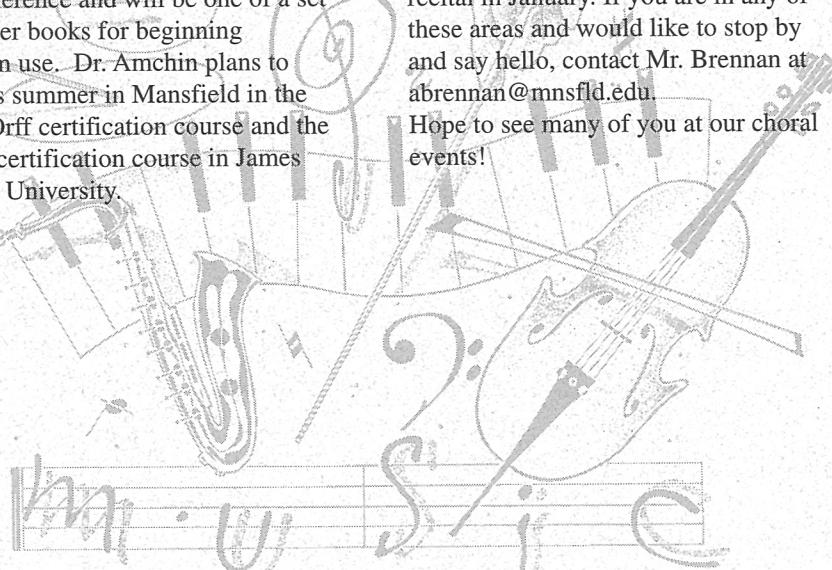
Dr. Amchin was quite busy this past semester. As clinician, he presented clinics to the Vermont MEA, NYSSMA, the Northern Lights Orff Schulwerk Association, and the Long Island Orff Schulwerk Association. In November, Dr. Amchin was invited to present his thoughts about "What makes a good teacher" during the "meeting of the minds" panel discussion which took place at the National Orff Schulwerk Association conference in Tampa, Fl. At the same conference, Dr. Amchin performed in the opening session as solo timpanist, performed recorder in a memorial for Gerald Burakoff at the Business meeting of the conference, and represented the Twin Tiers Orff Schulwerk Association as its present president. In the spring, Dr. Amchin will be presenting at the Regional MENC conference's General Music Sharing session." He will be at the PMEA conference.

This fall, Dr. Amchin completed his second set of recorder music "Recorder Frolics" published by Beaten Path Publications. This set of beginning recorder pieces was "sold out" at the Orff conference and will be one of a set of recorder books for beginning classroom use. Dr. Amchin plans to teach this summer in Mansfield in the Level I Orff certification course and the Level II certification course in James Madison University.

Adam F. Brennan

Adam F. Brennan is in his fourth year as Director of Bands at Mansfield University. This year, Mr. Brennan has had the marching band to four regional marching competitions to perform in exhibition. They received standing ovations and thunderous applause at these performances, providing MU with excellent visibility and recruitment. The wind ensemble performed for seven schools over a three-day tour in November and completed its third recording project. The group continues to develop in the fine tradition of Mansfield University and its outstanding music department.

Mr. Brennan will be making a number of guest conducting appearances. In November, he conducted the Zone 15 Area All State in Elmira, New York. This January he will conduct the PMEA District 9 Band at Mountainview High School and the LLMEA Band Festival in Ephrata, Pa. In February Mr. Brennan will conduct the Wellsville, New York Band Festival and in March, he will be the featured conductor at the Oswego, New York Band Festival. He will also perform in a solo percussion recital in January. If you are in any of these areas and would like to stop by and say hello, contact Mr. Brennan at abrennan@mnsfld.edu. Hope to see many of you at our choral events!



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Concert Wind Ensemble Alumni Reunion

The Concert Wind Ensemble Reunion has been rescheduled for March 5-7, 1999 to accommodate former conductor Donald Stanley's schedule. If you haven't received the mailing with the reservation information, please contact current director, Adam F. Brennan. He will make sure that you receive the mailing and can assist you with reservations. We want to hear from you and hope you can join us.

The weekend will begin with

an "early bird" reception Friday evening. Rehearsals will begin mid morning on Saturday, March 6. There is an optional dinner schedule for Saturday evening with a cost of \$20 per person. The dinner will be followed by a special concert by the current wind ensemble at approximately 8 p.m. Sunday's events will include a final rehearsal/warm-up and concert given by the alumni reunion ensemble and the current concert wind ensemble.

We've had good response to the weekend, but very few alumni are able to participate. We're in danger of having to cancel. If you plan on attending, let us know by February 15.

Contact Mr. Brennan for more information at (717) 662-4735 or e-mail him at abrennan@mnsfld.edu. We look forward to seeing you in March.